

FORM PTO-1390 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C 371		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 2169.GLE.PT U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 10/070715
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/EP00/08614	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 4 Sept. 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 7 Sept. 1999 and 23 Aug. 2000
TITLE OF INVENTION DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FILLING CONTAINERS		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Spatz, Günther;; Schwarz, Wolfhard; and Spether, Karl-Heinz		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31). 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4) 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included: 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter 2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: 1) Certificate of Mailing Under 37 USC Section 1.10 2) Return Postcard		

100 PERCENT 06 MAR 2002

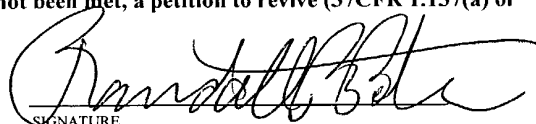
U.S. APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 10/070715		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO PCT/EP00/08614		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 2169 GLE PT	
21. <input type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a)(1) - (5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1040.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO. \$890.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$740.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4). \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4). \$100.00 ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
				\$890.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$130.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	20 =		X \$18.00	\$ 00	
Independent claims	3 =		X \$84.00	\$ 00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$1020.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$	
				+	
SUBTOTAL =				\$	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
				+	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				+	\$
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$1020.00	
				Amount to be refunded:	\$
				charged:	\$

- a. ☒ A credit card authorization in the amount of \$ 1020.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-0881 in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0881. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

Randall B. Bateman
MORRIS, BATEMAN, O'BRYANT & COMPAGNI
136 South Main Street, Suite 700
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
(801) 478-0071 phone
(801) 478-0076 facsimile



SIGNATURE

Randall B. Bateman

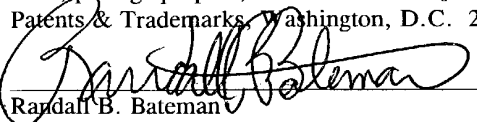
NAME

37,774

REGISTRATION NUMBER

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to Asst. Commissioner for Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Randall B. Bateman

6 March 2002
Date

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV 062075304 US

100070715 00000000

10/070715

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 MAR 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Günther Spatz et al.

Serial Number: _____ (National Stage of PCT/EP00/08614
Claiming Priority to German Applications
29923540.8 and 10041319.6)

Filed: 4 September 2000

Group: _____

Examiner: _____

For: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR FILLING CONTAINERS

Attorney Docket: 2169.GLE.PT

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D. C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via First Class Mail addressed to:
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,

Washington, D.C. 20231 on

(Date of Deposit)

6 March 2002

Barthelme

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination of the above-referenced application,
please enter the following amendment.

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 through 9 and replace therefor, new claims 10 through 29 as set
forth below.

10. (New) A device for filling containers with perishable material, comprising a filling station having a clean room in which the containers are filled and closed by a closure in a closing station, and a first cleaning lock for the containers configured such that the containers are cleaned prior to entering the clean room.

11. (New) The device according to claim 10, wherein the device further comprises a second cleaning lock for the closures, and configured such that the closures are cleaned prior to entering the clean room.

12. (New) The device according to claim 10, wherein at least one of the first and second cleaning locks comprises a cleaning device selected from the group consisting of a blasting device and a gasification device.

13. (New) The device according to claim 12, wherein the blasting device blasts an object to be cleaned with at least one of the group consisting of a liquid, UV radiation, radioactive radiation and gas.

14. (New) The device according to claim 13, wherein the gas is ozone.

15. (New) The device according to claim 10, further comprising a cleaning station downstream from the filling station.

16. (New) The device according to claim 15, wherein the cleaning station is in the clean room.

23. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method further comprises closing the containers in the clean room.

24. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method comprises cleaning the containers in the first cleaning lock with at least one cleaning device selected from the group consisting of a blasting device and a gasification device.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the method comprises blasting the containers with at least one of the group consisting of liquid, UV radiation, radioactive radiation and gas.

26. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the method comprises cleaning the closures in the second cleaning lock with at least one cleaning device selected from the group consisting of a blasting device and a gasification device.

27. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the method comprises blasting the containers with at least one of the group consisting of liquid, UV radiation, radioactive radiation and gas.

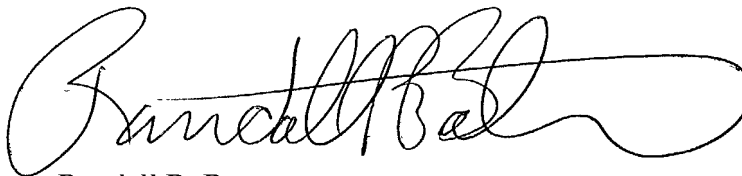
28. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the method comprises introducing the containers from the first cleaning lock and introducing the closures from a second cleaning lock and filling and closing the containers while in the clean room.

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claims 1-9 and added new claims 10-28. The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that any adverse action is necessary, it is requested that he contact Randall B. Bateman at (801) 478-0071 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

MORRISS, BATEMAN, O'BRYANT & COMPAGNI, PC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall B. Bateman", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Randall B. Bateman
Reg. No. 37,774

136 South Main Street, Suite 700
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Telephone (801) 478-0071
Facsimile (801) 478-0076
E-mail: bateman@mboclaw.com

11/PATS

Device and method for filling containers

Description

5 The invention relates to a device for filling containers, in particular bottles, according to the preamble of Claim 1 and to a method for filling containers, in particular bottles, according to the preamble of Claim 6.

10 Devices and methods of the type discussed here are known. However, it has been found that particularly when the containers are being filled with perishable substance, in particular with beer, fruit juices or still mineral water, the substance with which the
15 containers are filled becomes contaminated and therefore perishes rapidly, so that it is no longer suitable for consumption.

 Therefore, the object of the invention is to provide a device and a method which do not have these
20 drawbacks.

 To achieve this object, the invention proposes a device which has the features listed in Claim 1. It is distinguished by a clean room in which the containers are filled. In this context, the term clean
25 room means an environment within which the number of germs is extremely low and which is virtually free of substances which are hazardous to the perishable substance. A closure station is also provided in the clean room. Therefore, the containers are closed with a
30 closure in the clean room, so that it is impossible for any germs to enter the container during transfer from the filling station to the closure station. The clean room is assigned at least a first cleaning lock, in which the containers are cleaned before they enter the
35 clean room.

 An exemplary embodiment of the device which is distinguished by the fact that a second cleaning lock is provided, which is used to clean the closures which are fitted onto the containers, is preferred. This also

ensures that it is impossible for any germs or the like to be carried into the clean room.

Further configurations are given in the remaining subclaims.

5 To achieve the object, the invention also proposes a method which has the features listed in Claim 6. It is distinguished by the fact that the containers are fed to a clean room, inside which they are filled, via a first cleaning lock, in which they
10 are cleaned. The containers are also closed in the clean room, in order to prevent germs or other substances from being carried into the perishable substance.

Further embodiments of the method are given in
15 the remaining subclaims.

The invention is explained in more detail below with reference to the drawing, in which the only figure shows an outline sketch, in the form of a block diagram, of the device for filling containers.

20 Figure 1 shows a device 1 inside which containers B are filled with a perishable substance. The device 1 has a clean room 3 which is distinguished by the fact that the number of germs per cubic metre of air and of other substances which have an adverse
25 effect on the perishable substance are reduced to a minimum.

Inside the device 1 there is a filling station 5 in which the perishable substance is introduced into the containers B. The device 1 illustrated in this
30 figure also comprises a closure station 7, inside which closures V are fitted to the filled containers B. The closure station 7 is preferably likewise arranged in the clean room 3, i.e. inside the device 1, in order to avoid germs or other substances from posing a risk to
35 the perishable substance when the containers B are transferred from the filling station 5 to the closure station 7.

In Figure 1, a downstream cleaning station 9 is indicated in dashed lines inside the device 1. This is

used to clean the filled containers B, so that there is no perishable substance or other substances adhering to the outside thereof. Figure 1 indicates that the downstream cleaning station may also be provided
5 outside the device 1. The cleaning station arranged outside the device 1 is denoted by reference numeral 11.

It can be seen from Figure 1 that a first cleaning lock 13 is provided, which is fed with the
10 containers B to be filled. Inside the cleaning lock 13, the containers B are cleaned, preferably sterilized. The lock may comprise a blasting device and/or a gasification device, the blasting device being able to spray a liquid onto the containers B to be cleaned
15 and/or to emit UV or radioactive radiation. Devices of this type are known, and therefore will not be described here.

The cleaned containers B are fed from the first cleaning lock 13 to the device 1 in such a way that
20 there is no possibility of contamination of the containers B. The first cleaning lock 13 may therefore be directly connected to the device 1.

Figure 1 also shows a second cleaning lock 15 which is fed with the closures V which are used to
25 close the containers B. Inside the second cleaning lock 15, the closures V are cleaned and/or disinfected; in this case too, it is possible to use a blasting device of the abovementioned type and/or a gasification device.

30 From the second cleaning lock 15, the closures V are fed to the device 1 in such a way that there is no possibility of contamination by germs or other substances.

A dashed line 17 indicates that on the one hand
35 the first and second cleaning locks 13 and 15 may be combined to form a single lock, and on the other hand the two locks may be directly connected to the device 1, in order to be able to ensure that the cleaned

objects are transferred securely, i.e. with protection against contamination.

The objects to be cleaned, i.e. the containers B and the closures V, can therefore be cleaned in the associated cleaning locks by a gasification device which emits ozone, for example, or by means of a blasting device. The blasting device can release a cleaning liquid onto the objects to be cleaned or can emit UV radiation or radioactive radiation. Following the cleaning by means of an active washing liquid, it is possible to carry out downstream cleaning using a neutral medium, in order to eliminate all residues of the cleaning liquid. The downstream cleaning preferably takes place outside the clean room, which can thus be of relatively compact design.

The way in which the device 1 functions and the method for filling containers will be dealt with in more detail below:

In the interior of the device 1, namely in the clean room 3, containers B are filled with perishable substance, for example with fruit juices or with mineral water which has a low carbon dioxide content or contains no carbon dioxide, in a filling station 5. In the latter case, therefore, the disinfecting action of carbon dioxide is absent.

To prevent germs from being introduced into the containers B, the containers B and preferably also the closures V are cleaned and/or disinfected in cleaning locks 13 and 15 or, if appropriate, in a common cleaning lock (cf. line 17). The containers B are then fed to the filling station 5, the closures V to the closure station 7. In this way, it is possible to fill the containers B with perishable substance and to prevent germs or other disruptive substances from being entrained. Therefore, with the aid of the device 1 and the method explained here, it is possible for containers B to be filled without there being any need for heating of the substance to be introduced. On the one hand, this contributes to the flavour and

- 5 -

constituents, in particular vitamins, of the substance with which the containers are to be filled not being impaired, and on the other hand it is possible to save on the energy required to heat the substance.

5 Ultimately, the method and device contribute to reliably achieving the minimum shelf life required, and in many cases this shelf life can even be extended, in some cases considerably.

10 The closed containers B may also be cleaned in a downstream cleaning station 9 inside the clean room 3. However, it is expedient for the downstream cleaning to be carried out outside the device 1 or the clean room 3, in a downstream cleaning station 11.

15 Overall, it becomes clear that the device 1 is of very simple structure and that it is possible to use standard cleaning and disinfecting methods for cleaning and disinfecting the objects which have been introduced into the clean room 3, namely the containers B and if appropriate also the closures V, in such a way that
20 there are no germs or other substances entrained into the perishable substance.

The explanations given also make it clear that it is simple to produce cleaning locks 13, 15 which can be directly integrated in the housing wall of the
25 device 1 or can be fitted to this wall. Germs cannot enter the clean room 3 or the area on the other side of the housing wall, since the only access is through the cleaning locks.

In the end, it can be seen clearly that in the
30 device described here or when carrying out the method explained, containers are filled and closed in a clean room. In doing so, at least one cleaning lock is used to ensure that the objects which are introduced into the clean room, in this case therefore the containers
35 and the closures, are cleaned, so that it is impossible for germs to be introduced. It can easily be seen that it is possible to use a cleaning lock which is provided for both the containers and the closures, but that it

is also possible to provide separate cleaning locks for the two elements.

5 The device and the method are suitable for containers and closures of all types. However, it has emerged that in some cases there are areas of closures which are not readily accessible and in which it is possible that there may still be germs. Therefore, it is preferable to use particular types of closure which are of very simple structure, i.e. from which germs can
10 be completely removed very easily during a cleaning operation.

The particular closures of the type discussed here are, as it were, simple closure caps, also referred to as sealing caps, which can be fitted onto
15 the container in the interior of the clean room and reliably close this container. The containers are then preferably definitively closed outside the clean room by a closure element being fitted to the closure cap. This may be a conventional plastic screw-type cap, a
20 crown cap, a twist crown cap or a standard metal screw-type cap. Screw-type caps of this type are fitted onto the container which has been provided with the closure cap and are then subjected to a forming operation in which a thread is rolled into the lateral surface of
25 the screw-type cap. Forming processes of this type are generally known and therefore need no further explanation here.

It is also essential that closure caps which are preferably of simple structure are used, without
30 any undercuts or areas in which germs or the like may remain during a cleaning operation, thus constituting a hazard to the filling substance. The containers can be securely closed by means of the closure caps, so that contamination of the container content is reliably
35 avoided even after they have been taken out of the clean room. The containers are therefore easy to handle without risk of the contents being damaged and can be definitively closed in the manner referred to above.

The closure caps may consist of plastic, of plastic-coated metal or of a plurality of materials.

Preferably, the closure caps are fed to the cleaning lock in a defined orientation, so that it is impossible for any liquid residues to collect in the closure cap during cleaning with a liquid cleaning or disinfecting agent.

The simple structure of the closure caps, which in fact have no undercuts or the like is also advantageous for cleaning methods using jets and beams of all kinds, since all areas of the closure cap can be reliably reached and germs and the like are killed.

During cleaning of the closure caps which are held at a particularly selected orientation, it is possible to ensure that cleaning liquid does not collect in recesses or the like. Consequently, drying processes which follow the cleaning operation can be carried out particularly efficiently and quickly.

During cleaning of the containers and the closures or closure caps, it should be ensured that the materials of the parts to be cleaned are not impaired and that the taste of the substances or liquids with which the container is filled is not adversely affected either. By way of example, peracetic acid and/or alcohol can be used for the cleaning.

The device described here and the method explained can be used particularly effectively for filling containers with readily perishable substance, in particular with beer, fruit juices and mineral water with a low carbon dioxide content or without any carbon dioxide. In this case, it is preferable to use the closure caps described which are referred to as sealing caps, since such caps can be cleaned very thoroughly.

Claims

1. Device for filling containers, in particular bottles, with perishable substance, having a filling station, characterized by a clean room (3) in which the containers (B) are filled and are closed by means of a closure (V) in a closure station (7), and by a first cleaning lock (13) for the containers (B), which is assigned to the clean room (3) in such a way that the containers (B) are cleaned before they enter the clean room (3).
2. Device according to Claim 1, characterized in that a second cleaning lock (15) is provided for the closures (V), which is assigned to the clean room (3) in such a way that the closures (V) are cleaned before they enter the clean room (3).
3. Device according to Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the first and/or second cleaning lock (13; 15) comprises a blasting device and/or a gasification device.
4. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the blasting device blasts a liquid, UV radiation, radioactive radiation and/or gas - in particular ozone - onto the objects which are to be cleaned.
5. Device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a downstream cleaning station (9; 11) is provided.
6. Method for filling containers, in particular bottles, with perishable substance, in particular by means of a device according to one of the preceding claims, characterized by the following steps: introducing the containers into a first cleaning lock, transferring the containers from the first cleaning lock into a clean room, filling the containers in the clean room, and preferably closing the containers in the clean room.
7. Method according to Claim 6, characterized in that the closures are fed to a second cleaning lock and

Abstract

The invention proposes a device for filling containers, in particular bottles, with perishable substance, which comprises a filling station and is characterized by a clean room (3) in which the containers (B) are filled and are preferably also closed with a closure (V) in a closure station (7). It also has a first cleaning lock (13) for the containers (B), which is assigned to the clean room (3) in such a way that the containers (B) are cleaned before they enter the clean room (3).

Figure 1

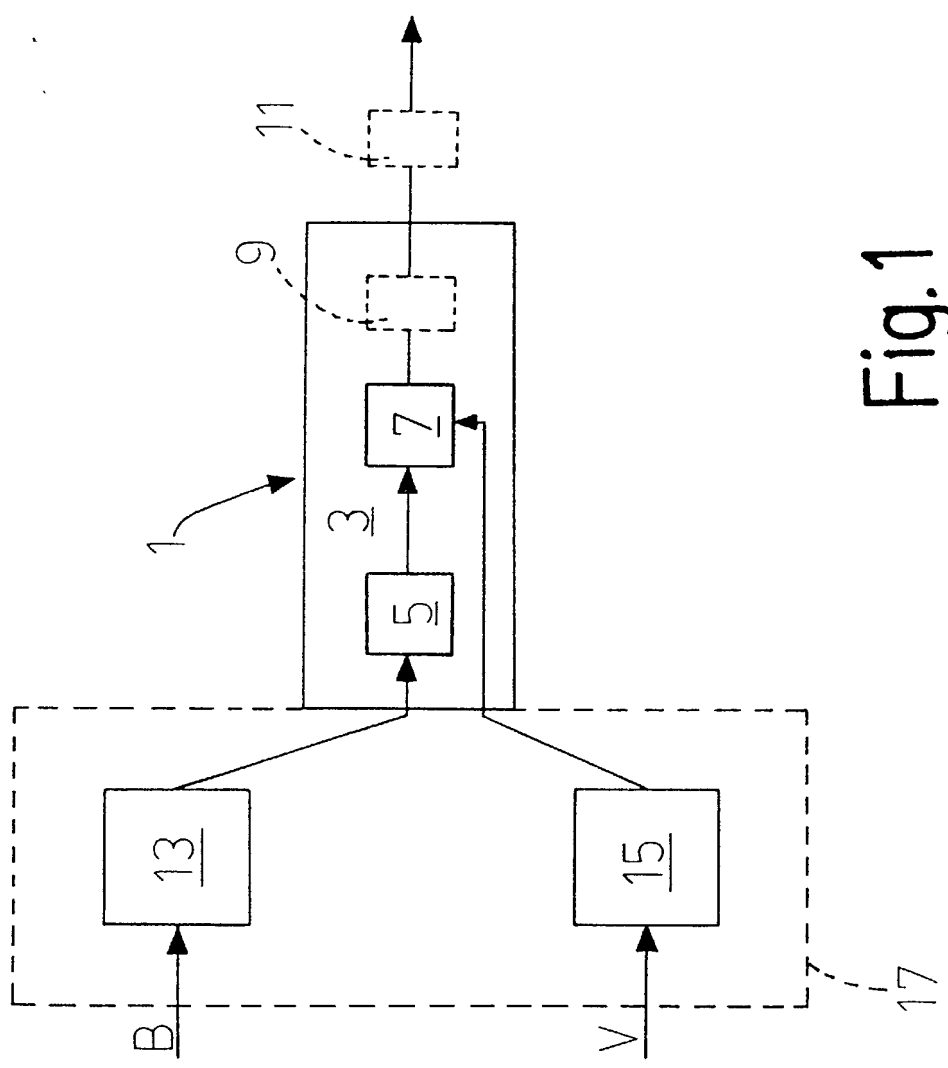
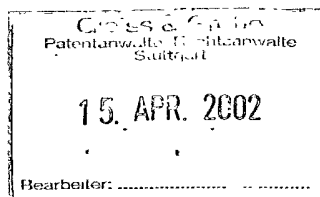


Fig.1



Handwritten: *File 24509 #7*

PCT/EP00/08164

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/070,715
(Claiming Priority to German Applications Nos. 29923540.8 and 10041319.6)
Attorney Docket No. 2169.GLE.PT

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application Erklärung für Patentanmeldungen mit Vollmacht

German Language Declaration

Als nachstehend benannter Erfinder erkläre ich hiermit an Eides Statt

daß mein Wohnsitz, meine Postanschrift und meine Staatsangehörigkeit den im nachstehenden nach meinem Namen aufgeführten Angaben entsprechen, daß ich nach bestem Wissen der ursprüngliche, erste und alleinige Erfinder (falls nachstehend nur ein Name angegeben ist) oder ein ursprünglicher, erster und Miterfinder (falls nachstehend mehrere Namen aufgeführt sind) des Gegenstandes bin, für den dieser Antrag gestellt wird und für den ein Patent für die Erfindung mit folgendem Titel beantragt wird:

Device and Method For Filling Containers

deren Beschreibung hier beigefügt ist, es sei denn (in diesem Falle Zutreffendes bitte ankreuzen), diese Erfindung

☒ wurde angemeldet am 4 September 2000
unter der US-Anmeldenummer oder unter der
Internationalen Anmeldenummer im Rahmen des Vertrags
über die Zusammenarbeit auf dem Gebiet des Patentwesens
(PCT) PCT/EP00/08614 und am
6 March 2002 bgeadert (falls
zutreffend)

Ich bestätige hiermit, daß ich den Inhalt der oben angegebenen Patentanmeldung, einschließlich der Ansprüche, die eventuell durch einen oben erwähnten Zusatzantrag abgeändert wurde, durchgesehen und verstanden habe.

Ich erkenne meine Pflicht zur Offenbarung jeglicher Informationen an, die zur Prüfung der Patentfähigkeit in Einklang mit Titel 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 von Belang sind

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Device and Method For Filling Containers

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked.

☒ was filed on 4 September 2000
as United States Application Number or PCT International
Application Number PCT/EP00/08614 and was amended on
6 March 2002 (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56

German Language Declaration

VERTRETUNGSVOLMACHT. Als benannter Erfinder beauftrage ich hiermit den (die) nachstehend aufgeführten Patentanwalt (Patentanwältin) und/oder Vertreter mit der Verfolgung der vorliegenden Patentanmeldung sowie mit der Abwicklung aller damit verbundenen Angelegenheiten vor dem US-Patent- und Markenamt (Name(n) und Registrationsnummer(n) auflisten)

Julie K. Morriss 33,263 Randall B. Bateman, 37,774
David W. O'Bryant 39,793 Frank W. Compagni, 40,567

MORRIS, BATEMAN, O'BRYANT & COMPAGNI
136 South Main Street, Suite 700
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Postanschrift:

Randall B. Bateman (801) 478-0071

Telefonische Auskünfte (Name und Telefonnummer)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

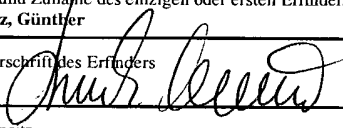
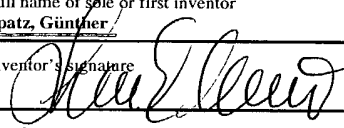
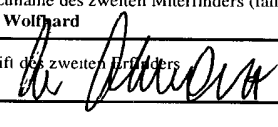
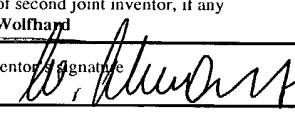
Julie K. Morriss 33,263 Randall B. Bateman, 37,774
David W. O'Bryant 39,793 Frank W. Compagni 40,567

MORRIS, BATEMAN, O'BRYANT & COMPAGNI
136 South Main Street, Suite 700
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Send Correspondence to

Randall B. Bateman (801) 478-0071

Direct Telephone Calls to (name and telephone number)

Vor- und Zuname des einzigen oder ersten Erfinders Spatz, Günther	1-00	Full name of sole or first inventor Spatz, Günther
Unterschrift des Erfinders 	Datum 24.05.2002	Inventor's signature 
Wohnsitz LAMPERTHEIM, Germany		Residence LAMPERTHEIM, Germany DEX
Staatsangehörigkeit German		Citizenship German
Postanschrift Carlo-Mierendorff-Straße 35 D-68623 LAMPERTHEIM, Germany		Post Office Address Carlo-Mierendorff-Straße 35 D-68623 LAMPERTHEIM, Germany
Vor- und Zuname des zweiten Miterfinders (falls zutreffend) Schwarz, Wolfhard	2-00	Full name of second joint inventor, if any Schwarz, Wolfhard
Unterschrift des zweiten Erfinders 	Datum 22.05.2002	Second Inventor's signature 
Wohnsitz WORMS, Germany		Residence WORMS, Germany DEX
Staatsangehörigkeit German		Citizenship German
Postanschrift Schäferstraße 32 D-67549 WORMS, Germany		Post Office Address Schäferstraße 32 D-67549 WORMS, Germany

Vor- und Zuname des einzigen oder ersten Erfinders Spether, Karl-Heinz	300 Full name of sole or first inventor Spether, Karl-Heinz
Unterschrift des Erfinders <i>Karl-Heinz Spether</i>	Investor's signature <i>Karl-Heinz Spether</i>
Datum 10.06.02	Date 10.06.02
Wohnsitz LADENBURG, Germany	Residence LADENBURG, Germany <i>DEX</i>
Staatsangehörigkeit German	Citizenship German
Postanschrift Stahlbühlring 2 D-68526 LADENBURG, Germany	Post Office Address Stahlbühlring 2 D-68526 LADENBURG, Germany

(In Falle dritter und weiterer Miterfinder sind die entsprechenden Informationen und Unterschriften hinzuzufügen.)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)